

**PARKS &
RECREATION****City of San Antonio
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes****Monday, September 23, 2024****5:30 PM****City Tower Concourse****BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Vanessa Fierro	District 1
Jennifer Ramage	District 2
Agapita Jaramillo	District 5
Laura S. Luna	District 7
Charles Saxer	District 8
Colleen Waguespack	District 9
Allison Cohen	District 10
Jeanette Honermann	Mayoral
Jennifer Regnier	San Antonio Parks Foundation
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Kellie Alcozer	District 3
Mary Kathryn Luna	District 4
Bert Pickell	District 6

STAFF PRESENT

Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation
Nikki Ramos, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
Melinda Cerda, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
Reena Gonzalez, Executive Assistant, Parks and Recreation
Steve Whitworth, City Attorney
Lyn Kinton, Administrator, Parks and Recreation
Ross Hosea, Manager, Parks and Recreation
Meredith Tilley, Assistant Manager, Parks and Recreation
Michael Holinsky, Project Forester, Parks and Recreation
Guy Wilson, City Forester, Parks and Recreation
Cynthia Uribe, Executive Secretary, Parks and Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Allison Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from the July 22, 2024, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.

Motion: Laura S. Luna, District 7

Second: Colleen Waguspack, District 9

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION****2. Briefing on San Pedro Parques Agency Partnership, German Enriquez, San Pedro Parques**

A presentation regarding Partnership with San Pedro Parques Agency and the work with City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Enriquez stated that their department has grown since the collaboration with our Parks Department. San Pedro Parques visited San Antonio on May 2023 and in May 2024 Memorandum of Understanding to Memorialize the Partnership took place and in June 2024 ongoing monthly virtual meeting with staff have been occurring. In September 2024 Joint Photography Program Kick-off with San Pedro Parques started and in November 2024 there will be a joint virtual Winner's Reception to announce winners. Mr. Enriquez stated that they are very grateful to have this partnership with Parks. Mr. Enriquez stated that he's excited to continue working with Parks and that they have been inspired by Parks and different organizations. Mr. Enriquez stated that although Parks and Recreation is still not a thing in San Pedro Parques the citizen's decided to help out by building these public private organizations. Mr. Enriquez stated that San Pedro Parques is a citizen's initiative that supports the municipal administration in caring for, ordering and improving the municipality's parks. Mr. Enriquez stated that they are learning in some many ways.

3. Briefing Regarding the City's Urban Heat Island (UHI) initiative and department role, Ross Hosea, Manager, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Hosea presented on the Urban Heat Island and what our department overview is. Mr. Hosea explained the definition of Urban Heat Island - urbanized areas becomes "islands" of higher temperatures relative to outlying areas which has to do with the buildings, roads, and other infrastructures that during the day absorb and re-emit the sun's heat. When you compare this to forest and bodies of water and other area's they content to keep the natural environments much cooler and what they find is that during the daytime these urban areas can have temperatures 1 – 7 degrees higher and night- time can be higher. City of San Antonio decided what will be done about this; so, the office of Sustainability took the lead and took two phases approach which started in FY2023. In Phase I they looked at cool pavement; how can we lessen the amount of heat that is absorbed on the pavements and streets. Ten sites were picked across the city in each council districts and they did a test with different companies and different types of products and what they found is that there was an 18 degree difference from this products compared to fresh asphalt. Phase II Cool Pavement Utilization focus on top 10 Census Tracts identified by UTSA, Incorporate Cool Pavement into Public Work Paving Program, UTSA Cool Pavement Research. Parks and Recreation was a part of these phases, so the San Antonio Parks System Plan Goals are aligned with Urban Heat Island Strategies. Parks and Recreation took a Comprehensive Approach there are two areas that we oversee which are Natural and Built Environment areas. Mr. Ross went over what we are doing to help cool the neighborhoods and the natural and built areas. Mr. Hosea explained that trees are important which they help lower surface and air temperatures, they reduce energy costs, improve air quality, enhance stormwater management, etc. Mr. Hosea also stated that they do street tree planting, residential tree planting program they plant around 1,500 to 2,000 a year. Mr. Ross stated that within 5-year plan 61 playgrounds will have shade and in FY 2024 13 playgrounds got shade improvements in 12 parks. These shades are valuable to providing some coolness for the neighbors to come out and enjoy these facilities.

4. Briefing Regarding Tree Mitigation Fund, Michael Holinsky, Project Forester, Guy Wilson, City Forester, and Meredith Tilley, Assistant Manager, Parks and Recreation

The Urban Forestry Team talked about the importance of Urban Trees and read the Tree Mitigation Preservation Ordinance. Mr. Holinsky went over some of the projects and the FY 2025 budget. Mr. Holinsky went over strategies in tree planting, tree adoption and tree partnerships. Mr. Holinsky spoke about the projects and programs and details of what they do and oversee: which include project details, Tree Planting goals for the year, total trees targeted and the programs they manage. Mr. Holinsky went over the areas on a map that are Capital Projects and explained which areas are in a very high need. Mr. Holinsky explained the different color codes. Mr. Holinsky went over the residential tree planting process how they prioritize communities of need based on equity and heat vulnerability, how they target neighborhoods that generally have lower canopy coverage.

Mr. Wilson presented on Urban Forestry how the Parks Tree Crew prune trees for safety clearances and tree health and sustainability. The Parks Planting Crew in FY 2024 completed projects at 24th St. Street, Catalina Park, and Roosevelt Park. In FY 2025 Proposed projects at Overbrook Greenspace and Crocket Park. Mr. Wilson spoke about the FY 2024 Watering continue to water and assess trees planted in parks and street trees in the ROW's watering about 55 plus sites where trees have been planting in FY 2025 water and assess any new trees planted for three years. Two new positions will be filled this year and two new water trucks to help additional trees on the watering schedule.

Mrs. Tilley presented on the Urban Forestry Engagement & Evaluation and their focus areas with connection, education, research, technology, and strategy. Another focus area is Evaluation: Integrating GIS to inform, track, and improve workflows and supporting Urban Forestry best practices with relevant research and integration of new technology and tools. Mrs. Tilley went over the research highlight with UTSA Study and how the team engage in events and education. Mrs. Tilley explained the Forestry Steward Programs goals how they develop a volunteer engagement team dedicated to sharing the tree planting and care, how they ensure individuals who adopt trees at Parks Department events will know how to correctly plant, mulch, and water their new tree, create a deeper awareness in the community about the benefits of trees in the urban setting. Mrs. Tilley went over the Partner Event Kit which includes resource guides, event management tools, and education materials to support neighborhood-based tree adoptions. Mrs. Tilley went over the benefits of this program how they can connect with neighbors and communities in high-need areas, empower community leaders to take a more direct role in bringing trees to their community, and how this allows Parks to better connect with residents and provide follow up care and tracking.

5. Parks and Recreation Director's Report – General Departmental Updates.

Homer Garcia III, Parks and Recreation Director, provided updates on the following items:

- Highlights – provided amounts for the FY 2025 Approved Budget for the different funds.
- FY 2025 Budget Improvements for Operations and maintenance of completed capital projects \$1 Million – Adds
- 9 positions (frontline), Waterway Cleaning Services - \$275,000 for contractual services to augment existing department efforts (Woodlawn, Elmendorf, SS Lions, Millers Pond and Brackenridge). Historic City Cemeteries Mast Plan – 250,00 to review existing 1990 Master Plan and make recommendations for improvements to enhance City's Historic Cemeteries.
- FY 2025 Budget Amendment – Urban Canopy - \$300,000.
- FY 2025 New Capital Investments \$550,000 for Monterrey Park – Restroom, are lighting, and related infrastructure, and Playground shade structures - \$3.8 Million in FY 2025 – 12 playgrounds at 12 parks estimated completion date May 2025.
- Greenway Trail Development briefing was given on what has been completed, estimated miles to be funded, and the 25 trail miles that is on the 2022 Bond Program.
- Mr. Garcia went over the 2025 Initiatives: Maintain Growth of Parks System, Responsive Programming to meet Community needs, and Efforts to Maintain Accreditation.

Nikki Ramos, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, provided updates on the upcoming events:

- In Conversation with Eddie Vega at Berta Almaguer Dance Studio & Community Center on September 28, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- College Football 25 E-Sports Tournament at Wheatley Heights Sports Complex on September 28, 2024 for ages 12 & up at 10:00 a.m.
- Thanksgiving Camp held November 25 -27, 2024 at 17 Community Centers, \$3.00 per day per child includes lunch and a snack, Program hours 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Registration begins September 30, 2024.
- Fall Swim Lesson at the San Antonio Natatorium, free group sessions and private sessions are provided starting in October – December on various dates.
- San Antonio Neighbors Together will be held on October 1, 2024 at a Community Center near you from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. There will be fun activities and snacks.
- Harlandale Community Center will be having Zumba Classes on October 8 & 22, 2024 for all ages at 7:00 p.m.
- On October 12, 2024 there will be a Volleyball Clinic held at Ramirez Community Center from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for ages 6 – 16.

- Owl Prowl will be held at Medina River Natural Area from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. starting October 18, 2024 and Third Friday of every month from October 2024 – February 2025 this is a free event.
- Dia del Arbol will be on November 2, 2024 at Mission Marquee Plaza from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Quintero Community Center will have a basketball clinic in partnership with Palo Alto College on November 2, 2024 for ages 6-16 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. this is a free clinic.
- Veterans Day Troop Trek is a free event held on November 9, 2024 at Roosevelt Park from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Mike Jones will be the Instructor.
- Free Star Party will be held at Medina River Natural Area on November 23, 2024, Phil Hardberger Park on December 7, 2024 and at Eisenhower Park on January 11, 2025 hours will be 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for locations and dates.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair, Allison Cohen adjourned the Parks and Recreation Board meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Cohen, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board